March 30, 2005

CLMPTO

AS

1. (Amended) A method of transmission of application data in a plurality of services in a digital transport stream, each of said plurality of services carrying at least one application, the method comprising providing an application data table containing information regarding said at least one application carried by each of a plurality of the services within the transport stream.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the application data table is transported in a transport packet having a predetermined packet ID value associated with the presence of an application data table within the packet.

3. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said application data table is electronically signed so as to permit a decoder to verify an application data table as originating from a known operator.

4. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein each service further comprises a program map table giving access to applications carried by this service, the program map table itself comprising information regarding said at least one application carried by this service.

5. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the application data table further comprises information regarding which applications may be accessed via each service.

6. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the application information carried in the application data table further includes information relating to the size of memory required to execute an application.

7. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the application information in the application data table includes a priority value indicating the relative priority of an application.

8. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the application information in the application data table includes a service exclusive value indicating that an application is exclusive to at least one service.

9. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the application information in the application data table includes a flag value concerning the action to be taken with an application upon a change of service.

10. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising providing a plurality of said application data tables, each application data table containing information regarding applications contained within a bouquet of services.

11. A method as claimed in claim 10 wherein each application data table is transported in one of a table and a section within a transport packet, each application data table being associated with one of a table and a section having one of a characteristic table ID and a characteristic table ID extension value.

12. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:

receiving the application data table in a digital television system.

13. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the digital transport stream conforms to the MPEG standard.

14. (Amended) A transmission apparatus comprising:

means for transmitting a transport stream comprising a plurality of services together with an application data table containing information regarding applications carried by a plurality of the services within the transport stream.

15.   A transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein the transmitting means is adapted to transmit the application data table in a transport packet having a

predetermined packet ID value associated with the presence of an application data table within the packet.

16. (Amended) A transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 14, comprising means for electronically signing said application data table so as to permit a decoder to verify an application data table as originating from a known operator.

17. (Amended) A transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein the transmitting means is adapted to transmit for each service a program map table giving access to applications carried by that service, the program map table itself comprising information regarding said at least one application carried by this service.

18. (Amended) A transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein the application data table further comprises information regarding which applications may be accessed via each service.

19. (Amended) A transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein the application information carried in the application data table further includes information relating to the size of memory required to execute an application.

20. (Amended) A transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein the application information in the application data table includes a priority value indicating the relative priority of an application.

21. (Amended) A transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein the application information in the application data table includes a service exclusive value indicating that an application is exclusive to at least one service.

22. (Amended) A transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 14 wherein the application information in the application data table includes a flag value concerning the action to be taken with an application upon change of service.

23. (Amended) A transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 14, wherein the transmitting means is adapted to transmit a plurality of said application data tables, each application data table containing information regarding applications contained within a bouquet of services.

24. A transmission apparatus as claimed in claim 23 wherein the transmitting means is adapted to transmit each application data table in one of a table and a section within a transport packet, each application data table being associated with one of a table and a section having one of a characteristic table ID and a characteristic table ID extension value.

Claim 27 (canceled)

28. A decoder comprising a memory for storing an application data table comprising information regarding applications carried by a plurality of services within the transport stream, and means for controlling at least one of the downloading and maintenance of such applications in dependence on the information contained within the application data table.

29. An application data table containing information regarding at least one application carried by each of a plurality of services within a transport stream.

30. (Amended) A decoder as claimed in claim 28, wherein said application data table is electronically signed so as to permit the decoder to verify an application data table as originating from a known operator.

31. (Amended) A decoder as claimed in claim 28 wherein the application data table further comprises information regarding which applications may be accessed via each service.

32. (Amended) A decoder as claimed in claim 28 wherein the application information carried in the application data table further includes information relating to the size of memory required to execute an application.

33. (Amended) A decoder as claimed in claim 28 wherein the application information in the application data table includes a priority value indicating the relative priority of an application.

34. (Amended) A decoder as claimed in claim 28 wherein the application information in the application data table includes a service exclusive value indicating that an application is exclusive to at least one service.

35. (Amended) A decoder as claimed in claim 28 in which the application information in the application data table includes a flag value concerning the action to be taken with an application upon a change of service.

36. (Amended) A plurality of tables according to claim 29, each application data table containing information regarding applications contained within a bouquet of services.

Claims 37-41 (canceled)

In addition, please add the following new claims:

--42. (New)   A table as claimed in claim 29, wherein said application data table is electronically signed so as to permit a decoder to verify an application data table as originating from a known operator.

43. (New) A table as claimed in claim 29 wherein the application data table further comprises information regarding which applications may be accessed via each service.

44. (New) A table as claimed in claim 29 wherein the application information carried in the application data table further includes information relating to the size of memory required to execute an application.

45. (New) A table as claimed in claim 29 wherein the application information in the application data table includes a priority value indicating the relative priority of an application.

46. (New) A table as claimed in claim 29 wherein the application information in the application data table includes a service exclusive value indicating that an application is exclusive to at least one service.

47. (New) A table as claimed in claim 29 in which the application information in the application data table includes a flag value concerning the action to be taken with an application upon a change of service.--